

22. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium, the method comprising:

sputter depositing a sealing layer comprising substantially amorphous NiNb directly on a glass or glass-ceramic substrate comprising Li; and

sputter depositing a magnetic layer on the sealing layer;

wherein the sealing layer has a thickness in a range of about 100Å to about 450Å and substantially prevents migration of Li from the substrate to the magnetic layer of the magnetic recording medium.

23. (Thrice Amended) A longitudinal or perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising, in this order:

a glass or glass-ceramic substrate comprising Li;

a sealing means comprising NiNb directly on the substrate having a thickness in a range of about 100Å to about 450Å for substantially preventing migration of Li from the substrate to a magnetic layer of the magnetic recording medium; and

the magnetic layer.